

**R156. Commerce, Occupational and Professional Licensing.**

**R156-61. Psychologist Licensing Act Rules.**

**R156-61-101. Title.**

These rules are known as the "Psychologist Licensing Act Rules."

**R156-61-102. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 61, as used in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 61 or these rules:

(1) "Approved diagnostic and statistical manual for mental disorders" means the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", 4th edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association, or the ICD-10-CM published by Medicode or the American Psychiatric Association.

(2) "Qualified faculty", as used in Subsection 58-1-307(b), means that university faculty member providing pre-doctoral supervision of clinical or counseling experience, that is experience in a university setting which is acquired prior to the pre-doctoral internship, who is licensed in Utah as a psychologist and who is training students in the context of a doctoral program leading to license eligibility. Qualified faculty does not include adjunct faculty. The qualified faculty supervisor must be legally able to personally provide the services which he is supervising. The qualified faculty supervisor must meet all other requirements for supervision as described in Section R156-61-302e. This provision does not allow such qualified faculty supervisors to provide supervision of hours needed for license eligibility, such as internship and post doctoral experience, unless the supervisor is otherwise qualified according to Section R156-61-302d. Supervisors in settings other than a university setting as described in this subsection must meet all requirements for supervisors as described in Sections R156-61-302d and R156-61-302e.

(3) "Residency program", as used in Subsection 58-61-301(1)(b), means a program of post-doctoral supervised clinical training necessary to meet licensing requirements as a psychologist.

**R156-61-103. Authority - Purpose.**

These rules are adopted by the division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1) to enable the division to administer Title 58, Chapter 61.

**R156-61-104. Organization - Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-107.

**R156-61-201. Advisory Peer Committee Created - Membership - Duties.**

(1) There is hereby enabled in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(6), the Ethics Committee as an advisory peer committee to the Psychology Licensing Board on either a permanent or ad hoc basis consisting of members licensed in good standing as psychologists qualified to engage in the practice of mental health therapy, in number and area of expertise necessary to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the committee as set forth in Subsection (3).

(2) The committee shall be appointed and serve in accordance with Section R156-1-204.

(3) The duties and responsibilities of the committee shall include assisting the division in its duties, functions, and responsibilities defined in Section 58-1-203 as follows:

(a) upon the request of the division, review reported violations of Utah law or the standards and ethics of the profession by a person licensed as a psychologist and advise the division if allegations against or information known about the person presents a reasonable basis to initiate or continue an investigation with respect to the person;

(b) upon the request of the division provide expert advice to the division with respect to conduct of an investigation; and

(c) when appropriate serve as an expert witness in matters before the division.

**R156-61-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) An institution or program of higher education, or a degree qualifying an applicant for licensure as a psychologist, to be recognized by the division in collaboration with the board under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(d), shall be accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association or meet the following criteria:

(a) if located in the United States or Canada, be accredited by a professional accrediting body approved by the Council for Higher Education of the American Council on Education, at the time the applicant received the required earned degree; or

(b) if located outside of the United States or Canada, be equivalent to an accredited program under Subsection (a), and the burden to demonstrate equivalency shall be upon the applicant; and

(c) result from successful completion of a program conducted on or based on a formal campus;

(d) result from a program which includes at least one year of residence at the educational institution;

(e) if located in the United States or Canada, be an institution having a doctoral psychology program meeting "Designation" criteria, as recognized by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards/National Register Joint Designation Committee, at the time the applicant received the earned degree, or if located outside of the United States or Canada, meet the same criteria by which a program is recognized by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards at the time the applicant received the earned degree;

(f) have an organized sequence of study to provide an integrated educational experience appropriate to preparation for the professional practice of psychology, and shall clearly identify those persons responsible for the program with clear authority and responsibility for the core and specialty areas regardless of whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines in the educational institution;

(g) clearly identify in catalogues or other publications the psychology faculty, demonstrate that the faculty is sufficient in number and experience to fulfill its responsibility to adequately educate and train professional psychologists, and demonstrate that the program is under the direction of a professionally trained psychologist;

(h) grant earned degrees resulting from a program encompassing a minimum of three academic years of full time graduate study with an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in the program for the purpose of obtaining a doctoral degree;

(i) include supervised practicum, internship, and field or laboratory training appropriate to the practice of psychology;

(j) require successful completion of a minimum of two semester/three quarter hour graduate level core courses including:

(i) scientific and professional ethics and standards;

(ii) research design and methodology;

(iii) statistics; and

(iv) psychometrics including test construction and measurement;

(k) require successful completion of a minimum of two graduate level semester hours/three graduate level quarter hours in each of the following knowledge areas. Course work must have a theoretical focus as opposed to an applied, clinical focus:

(i) biological bases of behavior such as physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, psychopharmacology, perception and sensation;

(ii) cognitive-affective bases of behavior such as learning, thinking, cognition, motivation and emotion;

(iii) social and cultural bases of behavior such as social psychology, organizational psychology, general systems theory, and group dynamics; and

(iv) individual differences such as human development, personality theory and abnormal psychology.

(l) require successful completion of specialty course work and professional education courses necessary to prepare the applicant adequately for the practice of

psychology.

(2) An applicant who has received a doctoral degree in psychology by completing the requirements of Subsections (1)(a) through (i), without completing the core courses required under Subsection (j), or the specialty course work required in Subsection (1) may be allowed to complete the required course work post-doctorally. The supplemental course work shall consist of formal graduate level work meeting the requirements of Subsections (j) and (1) in regularly offered and scheduled classes. University based directed reading courses may be approved at the discretion of the board.

(3) The date of completion of the doctoral degree shall be the graduation date or the date on which all formal requirements for graduation were met as certified by the university registrar.

**R156-61-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Experience Requirements.**

(1) Psychology training of a minimum of 4,000 hours qualifying an applicant for licensure as a psychologist under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e), and mental health therapy training under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(f), to be approved by the division in collaboration with the board, shall:

(a) be completed in not less than two years and in not more than four years unless otherwise approved by the board and division; and

(b) be completed while the applicant is under the supervision of a qualified psychologist meeting the requirements under Section R156-61-302d.

(2) In accordance with Subsection 58-61-301(1)(b), an individual engaged in a post-doctoral residency program of supervised clinical training shall be certified as a psychology resident.

(3) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has commenced and completed all or part of the psychology or mental health therapy training requirements under Subsection (1) outside the state, may receive credit for that training completed outside of the state if it is demonstrated by the applicant that the training completed outside the state is equivalent to the requirements for training under Subsections 58-61-304(1)(e) and (f), and Subsection R156-61-302b(1). The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating by evidence satisfactory to the division and board that the training completed outside the state is equivalent to the requirements under this Subsection.

**R156-61-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.**

(1) The examination requirements which must be met by an applicant for licensure as a psychologist under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(g) are:

(a) passing the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) developed by the American Association of State Psychology Board (ASPPB) with a passing score as recommended by the ASPPB; and

(b) passing the Utah Psychology Law Examination with a score of not less than 75%.

(2) A person may be admitted to the EPPP examination in Utah only after meeting the requirements under 58-61-305, and after receiving written approval from the division.

(3) If an applicant is admitted to an EPPP examination based upon substantive information that is incorrect and furnished knowingly by the applicant, the applicant shall automatically be given a failing score and shall not be permitted to retake the examination until the applicant submits fees and a correct application demonstrating the applicant is qualified for the examination. If an applicant is inappropriately admitted to an EPPP examination because of a division or board error and the applicant receives a passing score, the results of the examination may not be used for licensure until the deficiency which would have barred the applicant for admission to the examination is corrected.

(4) An applicant who fails the EPPP examination three times will not be allowed subsequent admission to the examination until the applicant has appeared before the board, developed with the board a plan of study in appropriate subject matter, and thereafter completed the planned course of study to the satisfaction of the board.

(5) An applicant who is found to be cheating on the EPPP examination or in any way invalidating the integrity of the examination shall automatically be given a failing

score and shall not be permitted to retake the examination for a period of at least three years as is determined by the division in collaboration with the board.

(6) The Utah Psychology Law Examination may be taken only after an applicant has taken the EPPP examination.

**R156-61-302d. Qualifications for Designation as an Approved Psychology Training Supervisor.**

To be approved by the division in collaboration with the board as a supervisor of psychology or mental health therapy training required under Subsections 58-61-304(1)(e) and (f), an individual shall:

- (1) be currently licensed in good standing as a psychologist in the jurisdiction in which the supervised training is being performed; and
- (2) demonstrate practice as a licensed psychologist for not less than 4,000 hours in a period of not less than two years.

**R156-61-302e. Duties and Responsibilities of a Supervisor of Psychology Training and Mental Health Therapist Training.**

The duties and responsibilities of a psychologist supervisor are further defined, clarified or established as follows:

- (1) be professionally responsible for the acts and practices of the supervisee which are a part of the required supervised training;
- (2) be engaged in a relationship with the supervisee in which the supervisor is independent from control by the supervisee and in which the ability of the supervisor to supervise and direct the practice of the supervisee is not compromised;
- (3) supervise not more than 120 hours of supervised experience per week;
- (4) be available for advice, consultation, and direction consistent with the standards and ethics of the profession and the requirements suggested by the total circumstances including the supervisee's level of training, diagnosis of patients, and other factors known to the supervisee and supervisor;
- (5) comply with the confidentiality requirements of Section 58-61-602;
- (6) provide timely and periodic review of the client records assigned to the supervisee;
- (7) monitor the performance of the supervisee for compliance with laws, standards, and ethics applicable to the practice of psychology;
- (8) submit appropriate documentation to the division with respect to work completed by the supervisee evidencing the performance of the supervisee during the period of supervised psychology training and mental health therapist training, including the supervisor's evaluation of the supervisee's competence in the practice of psychology and mental health therapy;
- (9) ensure that the supervisee is certified by the Division as a psychology resident.

**R156-61-302f. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

- (1) In accordance with Subsection 58-1-308(1), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licenses under Title 58, Chapter 61, is established by rule in Section R156-1-308.
- (2) Renewal procedures shall be in accordance with Section R156-1-308.

**R156-61-302g. License Reinstatement - Requirements.**

An applicant for reinstatement of his license after two years following expiration of that license shall be required to:

- (1) upon request meet with the board for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's current ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a psychologist and to make a determination of education, experience or examination requirements which will be required before reinstatement;
- (2) upon the recommendation of the board, establish a plan of supervision under an

approved supervisor which may include up to 4000 hours of psychology and/or mental health therapy training;

(3) pass the Utah Psychology Law Examination;

(4) pass the EPPP Examination if it is determined by the board that current taking and passing of the examination is necessary to demonstrate the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a psychologist; and

(5) complete a minimum of 48 hours of professional education in subjects determined by the board as necessary to ensure the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a psychologist.

#### **R156-61-302h. Continuing Education.**

(1) There is hereby established a continuing professional education requirement for all individuals licensed or certified under Title 58, Chapter 61.

(2) During each two year period commencing on October 1 of each even numbered year:

(a) a licensed psychologist shall be required to complete not less than 48 hours of qualified professional education directly related to the licensee's professional practice; or

(b) a certified psychology resident shall be required to complete not less than 24 hours of qualified professional education directly related to professional practice.

(3) The required number of hours of professional education for an individual who first becomes licensed during the two year period year shall be decreased in a pro-rata amount equal to any part of that two year period year preceding the date on which that individual first became licensed.

(4) Qualified professional education under this section shall:

(a) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational program directly related to the practice of a psychologist;

(b) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;

(c) be presented in a competent, well organized, and sequential manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the program;

(d) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training, and experience; and

(e) have associated with it a competent method of registration of individuals who actually completed the professional education program and records of that registration and completion are available for review.

(5) Credit for professional education shall be recognized in accordance with the following:

(a) unlimited hours shall be recognized for professional education completed in blocks of time of not less than one hour in formally established classroom courses, seminars, or conferences;

(b) a maximum of ten hours per two year period may be recognized for teaching in a college or university, teaching qualified continuing education professional education courses in the field of psychology, or supervision of an individual completing his experience requirement for licensure as a psychologist;

(c) a maximum of six hours per two year period may be recognized for clinical readings directly related to practice as a psychologist;

(6) A licensee shall be responsible for maintaining competent records of completed qualified professional education for a period of four years after close of the two year period to which the records pertain. It is the responsibility of the licensee to maintain information with respect to qualified professional education to demonstrate it meets the requirements under this section.

(7) A licensee who documents they are engaged in full time activities or is subjected to circumstances which prevent that licensee from meeting the continuing professional education requirements established under this section may be excused from the requirement for a period of up to three years. However, it is the responsibility of

**R156-61-502. Unprofessional Conduct.**

"Unprofessional conduct" includes:

- (1) violation of any provision of the "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct" of the American Psychological Association (APA) as adopted by the APA, August 2002 edition, which is adopted and incorporated by reference;
- (2) violation of any provision of the "ASPPB Code of Conduct" of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) as adopted by the ASPPB, June 2001 edition, which is adopted and incorporated by reference;
- (3) acting as a supervisor or accepting supervision of a supervisor without complying with or ensuring the compliance with the requirements of Sections R156-61-302d and R156-61-302e;
- (4) engaging in and aiding or abetting conduct or practices which are dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent;
- (5) engaging in or aiding or abetting deceptive or fraudulent billing practices;
- (6) failing to establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with a client or former client;
- (7) engaging in dual or multiple relationships with a client or former client in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client;
- (8) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a client with or without client consent;
- (9) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a former client within two years of documented termination of services;
- (10) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact at any time with a former client who is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of the client's personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place the client at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the psychologist and the client;
- (11) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with client's relatives or other individuals with whom the client maintains a relationship when that individual is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of his personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place that individual at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the psychologist and that individual;
- (12) physical contact with a client when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client resulting from the contact;
- (13) engaging in or aiding or abetting sexual harassment or any conduct which is exploitive or abusive with respect to a student, trainee, employee, or colleague with whom the licensee has supervisory or management responsibility;
- (14) failing to render impartial, objective, and informed services, recommendations or opinions with respect to custodial or parental rights, divorce, domestic relationships, adoptions, sanity, competency, mental health or any other determination concerning an individual's civil or legal rights;
- (15) exploiting a client for personal gain;
- (16) use of a professional client relationship to exploit a person that is known to have a personal relationship with a client for personal gain;
- (17) failing to maintain appropriate client records for a period of not less than ten years from the documented termination of services to the client;
- (18) failing to obtain informed consent from the client or legal guardian before taping, recording or permitting third party observations of client care or records;
- (19) failure to cooperate with the Division during an investigation
- (20) participating in a residency program without being certified as a psychology resident; and
- (21) supervising a residency program of an individual who is not certified as a psychology resident.

Effective January 4, 2005  
Notice of Continuation June 10, 2004  
58-61-101

58-1-106(1)(a)  
58-1-202(1)(a)



**PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSING  
ACT RULES**

**R156-61  
Utah Administrative Code  
Issued January 4, 2005**